Badagara-Mahe Canal

4286. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals for excavation of Badagara-Mahe Canal;

(b) whether proposal for the development of feeder canals also have been submitted for sanction under Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(c) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(d) the details of the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The State Government of Kerala has informed that as part of the development of the State Waterways, the State Government proposes to excavate the Badagara-Mahe Canal. Like wise, for the optimal utilization of National Waterways-III, the State Government proposes to develop the feeder canals leading to the National Waterway. With the above objective, various proposals were prepared and submitted by the State Government before the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)/ Government of India seeking assistance under the 90:10 Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Inland Water Transport (IWT) Sector. Recently IWAI has informed the Government of Kerala that the CSS for IWT has been discontinued by the Planning Commission with effect from 1.4.07.

Mahakali Project

4287. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a treaty with Nepal was signed in 1996, for integrated development of Mahakali (Sharda in India) river;

(b) the details of projects envisaged therein to be implemented by respective countries indicating socio-economic benefits expected to be resulting therefrom to the people of India and Nepal;

(c) the current status thereof; and

(d) the road-map drawn, if any, for implementation of the remaining projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Treaty between the Government of Nepal and the Government of India concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River including Sarada barage, Tanakpur Barage and Pancheshwar Project was concluded in February, 1996. The treaty is in force for a period of seventy-five years.

(b) The centerpiece of the Treaty is the construction of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on the Mahakali River, at a point where the river forms a border between India and Nepal. The project, which entails construction of a 315 metre high dam and a re-regulating dam downstream, would generate 8.378 GWh of dependable power from an installed capacity of 5600 MW and provide irrigation benefits to both India and Nepal.

(c) and (d) A Joint Project Office (JPO) was established in 1999 to conduct field investigations to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) jointly by the two Governments.

The JPO was closed in 2002 on completion of the field investigations except some confirmatory geo-physical tests required on the Nepal bank at Rupaligad (alternative) site for re-regulating structure.

Some contentious issues, like (i) apportionment of cost between power and irrigation and between India and Nepal; (ii) installation capacity and unit size and assessment of power benefits; and (iii) water availability downstream of Pancheshwar, etc. are also pending for final decision with Government of Nepal. No discussions could be held with Nepal since December, 2004 due to internal situation in Nepal.

Low level of ground water

†4288. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of such districts where ground water has reached at a dangerously low level is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of the related schemes and their achievements, State-wise;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the ground water situation is very bad in the national capital; and

(e) if so, the details of the efforts being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), 839 units (Blocks/ Mandals/Talukas) have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', 226 units as 'Critical' and 550 as 'Semi-critical'.

(d) and (e) As per report of CGWB, seven out of nine districts of NCT Delhi are over-exploited. The measures taken for management and development of ground water resources in NCT Delhi include the following:—

- Notification of South and South-West districts of NCT Delhi by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for regulation of ground water development and management. Digging of new groundwater abstraction structures in these areas without prior permission of CGWA, is prohibited.
- Implementation of demonstrative rain water harvesting and artificial recharge projects during Ninth Plan in various parts of the city.
- Organization of Mass Awareness and Water Management Training Programmes.
- Development of tubewells/exploratory wells.

Recommendation of Second ARC about control over rivers and groundwater

4289. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.